

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of navigating data stored on a data storage device connected to a  
2 computer, comprising the steps of:  
3 in response to receiving user input, selecting a target object in an information  
4 catalog; and  
5 providing information about a source from which the target object was derived.

1 2. The method of claim 1, the target object is represented as a node in a tree  
2 structure.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing information further  
2 comprises the step of providing transformation information.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing transformation  
2 information further comprises the step of identifying a transformation producing function.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing information further  
2 comprises the step of providing lineage information.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of maintaining  
2 transformation models for use in providing the lineage information.

1 7. An apparatus for navigating data, comprising:  
2 a computer having a memory and a data storage device coupled thereto that stores  
3 the data;  
4 one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for, in response to  
5 receiving user input, selecting a target object in an information catalog and providing  
6 information about a source from which the target object was derived.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7, the target object is represented as a node in a  
2 tree structure.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for providing information  
2 further comprises the means for providing transformation information.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for providing transformation  
2 information further comprises the means for identifying a transformation producing  
3 function.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for providing information  
2 further comprises the means for providing lineage information.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising the means for maintaining  
2 transformation models for use in providing the lineage information.

1 13. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable  
2 by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to  
3 perform method steps for navigating data stored on a data storage device, the method  
4 comprising the steps of:

5 in response to receiving user input, selecting a target object in an information  
6 catalog; and

7 providing information about a source from which the target object was derived.

1 14. The article of manufacture of claim 13, the target object is represented as a  
2 node in a tree structure.

1 15. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the step of providing  
2 information further comprises the step of providing transformation information.

1           16.    The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the step of providing  
2 transformation information further comprises the step of identifying a transformation  
3 producing function.

1           17.    The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the step of providing  
2 information further comprises the step of providing lineage information.

1           18.    The article of manufacture of claim 17, further comprising the step of  
2 maintaining transformation models for use in providing the lineage information.

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a<sup>16</sup>*

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